

Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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February 1, 2011
FB11-010

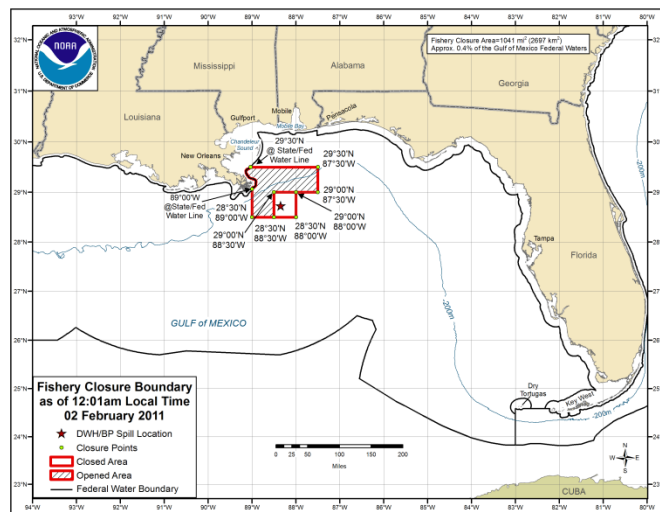
BP Oil Spill: NOAA Re-opens Federal Waters to Royal Red Shrimp Fishing

Effective **February 2, 2011 at 12:01 a.m. local time**, NOAA will reopen 4,213 square miles (10,911 sq km) of area it had previously closed to royal red shrimp fishing in the Gulf of Mexico in response to the BP/Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

NOAA Fisheries Service prohibited royal red shrimp fishing in this area as a precautionary measure, after a fisherman targeting this species reported catching tar balls in his bottom trawl. The closure was instituted in consultation with the FDA to ensure seafood safety while NOAA further investigated the situation. NOAA analyzed royal red shrimp and tar ball samples collected from the fisherman, and conducted additional sampling and video surveillance in and around the closed area to determine the extent and magnitude of tar balls and to collect additional shrimp and finfish samples for analysis.

NOAA has completed the analysis and determined, in consultation with the FDA, shrimp and finfish from the area are safe to eat. All seafood samples have passed both sensory and chemical testing. The test results are available at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/deepwater_horizon_oil_spill.htm.

The area immediately surrounding the wellhead remains closed to all fishing. The closed area now measures 1,041 sq mi (2,697 sq km). All commercial and recreational fishing, including catch and release, is prohibited in this closed area. Transit through the closed area is allowed; however, the U.S. District Court in New Orleans has ordered the establishment of a security zone extending 750 feet in all directions from the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon wreckage site and its debris field.



Map Link:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/deepwater_horizon/DWH_BP_OilSpill_FisheryClosureMap_020211_Opening.pdf

The area closed to all fishing is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following coordinates:

North latitude	West longitude
29° 00'	88° 30'
29° 00'	88° 00'
28° 30'	88° 00'
28° 30'	88° 30'

NOAA continues an aggressive, comprehensive, coordinated, multi-agency effort to ensure the safety of Gulf seafood, working across federal agencies and with state and local officials and the seafood industry to closely monitor the effects of the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill and its potential impact on seafood safety. So far, we have heard no reports of oil- or dispersant-tainted seafood entering the market.

Ways to Receive Closure Information:

- Sign up for Southeast Fishery Bulletins: send an email to: SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov
- Call 1-800-627-NOAA (1-800-627-6622) to hear a recording of the current coordinates (with messages in Spanish and Vietnamese)
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio for updates
- Follow us on Twitter: usnoaagov to get a tweet when the closed area changes

Links for more information:

Southeast Regional Office's Web page:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/deepwater_horizon_oil_spill.htm

NOAA's National Ocean Service

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>

Deepwater Horizon Response

<http://www.restorethegulf.gov/>